

C1 a processing intention data generator for generating, on the basis of product shape data, processing intention data for specifying a processing region to be processed to manufacture a product; and

a tool data adding section for adding, to said processing intention data, data for specifying a punch and a die to be used to process said processing region.

C2 19. (Amended - Clean Copy) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein said processing intention data generator is provided in the automatically programming apparatus, and said tool data adding section is provided in the punch press numerical controller for numerically controlling the punch press.

REMARKS

Supplemental to the Response filed April 3, 2002, Applicants respectfully request entry of the herein contained amendments to claims 15 and 19. By the present supplemental Response, Applicants amend claims 15 and 19 to correct informalities. In particular, claims 15 and 19 are amended to delete labels corresponding to the Figures from the claims.

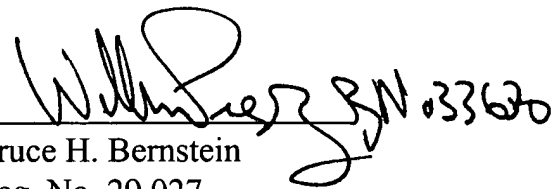
As noted in the Remarks submitted with the Response filed April 3, 2002, Applicants respectfully submit that, based on the above-noted Response, as well as the remarks contained therein, all the claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request an indication to such effect in due course.

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The amendments to the claims which have been made in this Supplemental Response, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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April 10, 2002
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MARKED-UP COPY OF CLAIMS

15. (Amended) A processing program preparing apparatus for a numerically controlled punch press, comprising:

a processing intention data generator [(90)] for generating, on the basis of product shape data, processing intention data for specifying a processing region to be processed to manufacture a product; and

a tool data adding section [(96)] for adding, to said processing intention data, data for specifying a punch and a die to be used to process said processing region.

19. (Amended) An apparatus as recited in claim 15, wherein said processing intention data generator [(90)] is provided in the automatically programming apparatus [(78)], and said tool data adding section [(96)] is provided in the punch press numerical controller [(54)] for numerically controlling the punch press.